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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McCalley, James B.

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 04:46:23

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His first engagement of the season was at Hershey, Pennsylvania on May 30th and 31st, 1912. Where he made two flights a day flying his now 80 hp., Curtiss biplane. On one flight he was up to 10,500 feet, almost breaking the altitude record held by Lincoln Beachey. He continued exhibition work through the summer, then was at Stoneboro, Pennsylvania on September 19th. There at an altitude of 2,000 feet the engine tie-down bolts came out on one side. He stopped the engine and glided in, safely. On September 26th he flew at Allentown, Pennsylvania with Joe Richter, an on October 10th was at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania where his motor quit in flight and he ran into a fence when making a forced landing. On October 17th he exhibited at Hagerstown, Maryland making several fine flights, one up to 7,000. feet.

In the spring of 1913 McCalley again started flying exhibitions, then on July 5th he agreed to fill all the engagements left open by Pennsylvania aviator Earle Sandt who had died on June 21st. Later in the fall McCalley was laid up for a time with a broken wrist sustained in an accident when he was forced to land away from his intended area because of the crowds surging onto the field. In late November McCalley gave a lecture in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on "The Development of Aviation" and at the conclusion of his speech announced his intention to quit flying.

Military records show that he enlisted during World War I on June 29, 1917 as a Reserve Military Aviator from Pittsburgh, and on July 13th was assigned to Wilbur Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio for duty as Captain. It is not known to what extent he served during that war but he evidently withdrew from aviation after the Armistice.

Later McCalley went into industrial activities and in 1942 was President of the Bristol Aerometals Corporation of Bristol, Tennessee, with his office in New York City. McCalley became a member of the Early Birds. That organization has been unable to locate him, although his last known address was in Cuba.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird James B. McCalley was one of the many early aviation enthusiasts who took up flying during its early era then the dream of

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